



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,928	02/20/2002	Isreal Hicks	HICKS-1-1002	2184
25315	7590	08/07/2006	EXAMINER	
BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM, PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 4800 SEATTLE, WA 98104			CHAN, KO HUNG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	

DATE MAILED: 08/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



### **DETAILED ACTION**

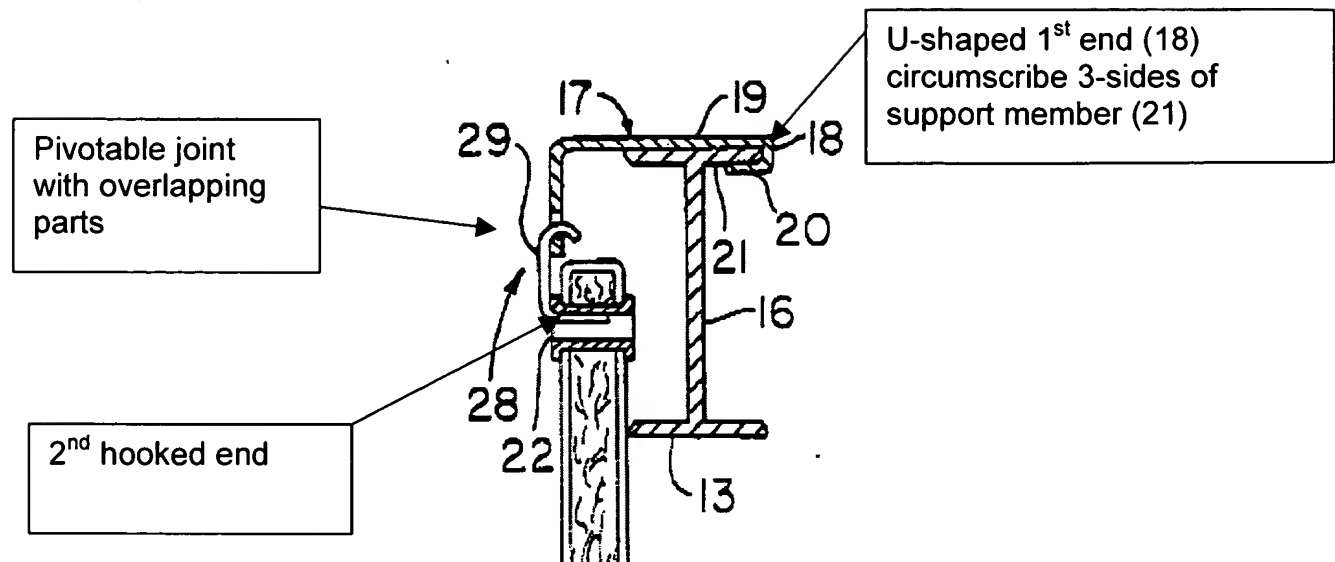
The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

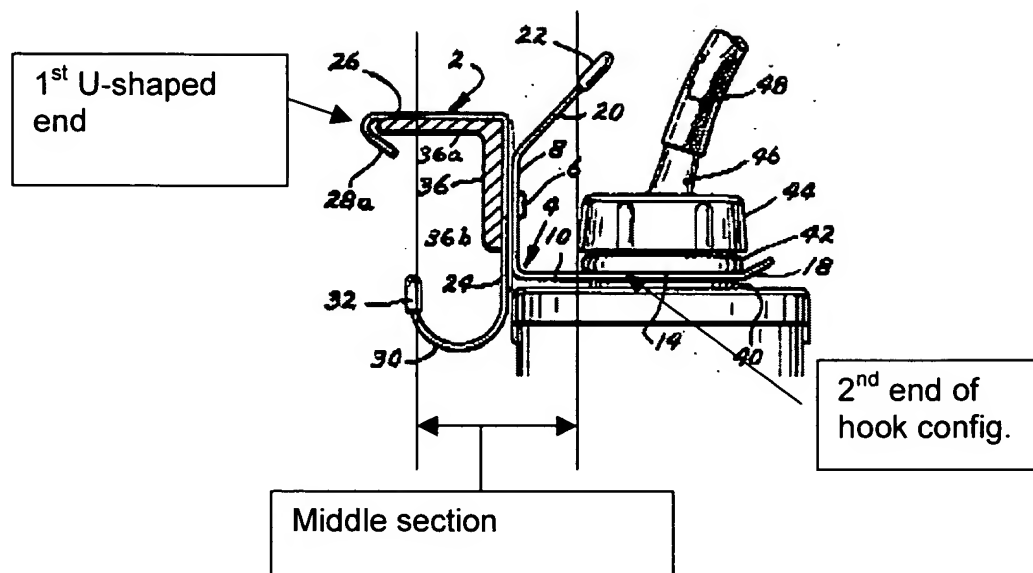
Claims 29, 30 and 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The recitation that "a pivotable joint" formed from overlapping parts" in claims 29 and 30 is vague and indefinite as it is not clear overlapping parts of what element.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Claims 26, 29, 30, and 48-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zarnick (US patent no. 5,816,016). Zarnick discloses a hanger (capable of being a tire hanger) made of rigid material comprising a device configured to removably engage a horizontal support member (21), the device having 1<sup>st</sup> U-shaped end (18) circumscribing the horizontal member with a hook and a second hook configuration (see illustration below) capable of suspending wheel in vertical orientation (see orientation of element 24); and a middle section (29) with pivotable joint formed from overlapping parts having a length suitable for engaging the hook configuration with the wheel wherein the weight bearing upon the second end is conveyed through the middle section to the first end to secure the first end on the horizontal support.



Claims 26, 29, 30, and 48-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abel (US patent no. 3,653,624). Abel discloses a hanger (capable of being a tire hanger) made of rigid material comprising a device configured to removably engage a horizontal support member (36a), the device having 1<sup>st</sup> U-shaped end (26 and 28a, figure 4)) circumscribing the horizontal member with a hook and a second hook configuration (10) capable of suspending wheel in vertical orientation; and a middle section (8 and 24)) with pivotable joint (6) formed from overlapping parts (8 and 24) having a length suitable for engaging the hook configuration with the wheel wherein the weight bearing upon the second end is conveyed through the middle section to the first end to secure the first end on the horizontal support.



### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 26, 29, 30, and 48-58 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The remaining cited art of record demonstrate hangers with U-shaped first end circumscribed on its horizontal supports.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3632

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Korie H. Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-6816. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on (571)272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3632

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Korie H. Chan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3632

khc  
July 31, 2006